

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 34

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, James William Bass Jr. of Tyler, justice emeritus of  
2 the 12th Court of Appeals, passed away on June 20, 2025, at the age  
3 of 90; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on November 19, 1934, Bill Bass graduated from  
5 the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and was  
6 commissioned as a U.S. Army field artillery lieutenant; he married  
7 the former Patsy Ann McMurray in 1956, and they moved to Germany,  
8 where he served with NATO forces; returning to Van Zandt County, he  
9 worked on the family farm in Martin's Mill before beginning law  
10 school at Southern Methodist University; during his first year, he  
11 was elected to the first of three terms in the Texas House of  
12 Representatives; he served on a number of committees, including  
13 Agriculture and Military Affairs, and he was a member of the famed  
14 "Dirty Thirty" coalition of House members whose efforts to oppose  
15 corruption among elected officials ushered in a new era in the Texas  
16 Legislature; and

17 WHEREAS, Justice Bass returned to private life to practice  
18 law with his friend and mentor in the firm of Elliott & Bass;  
19 following his appointment to the 12th Court of Appeals, he was twice  
20 elected to the bench, and in retirement, he continued to serve as a  
21 senior appellate judge; he further distinguished himself as a  
22 member of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission and the  
23 State Commission on Judicial Conduct; among other accolades, he  
24 received the Justinian Award from the Smith County Bar Foundation;

1 he benefited his local community as a member of the boards of the  
2 East Texas Symphony Orchestra and All Saints Episcopal School; in  
3 addition, he was a vestryman of his parish; he was preceded in death  
4 by a daughter, Julia Alexandra Bass, longtime journal clerk of the  
5 Texas House; and

6 WHEREAS, Scholarly and well-read, Bill Bass was a gifted  
7 orator and an invaluable mentor, and while his passing brings great  
8 sadness to his family and friends, his legacy of public service will  
9 remain a lasting source of inspiration to all; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature, 1st  
11 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of James William Bass  
12 Jr. and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
13 wife, Patsy Ann McMurray Bass; to his children, Dr. James William  
14 Bass III and his wife, Dana Taylor Bass, Leslie Suzanne Bass and her  
15 husband, David Hudson, and Elizabeth Eaton Bass and her husband,  
16 Joseph Newman; to his grandsons, William Bass IV and Zachary Taylor  
17 Bass; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this  
20 day, it do so in memory of the Honorable Bill Bass.